A Full

RELATION

OF THE

Birth, Parentage, Education, Life and Converſation

OF

Mrs. Margaret Martel

THE

Barbarous *French*-Woman,

Who was Executed over againſt the *Meuſe-Gate*, near *Charing-Croſs*, on *Friday* the 16th of this Inſtant *July*, 1697. for a moſt Bloody Murther committed by her on the Body of *Madam PULLEN*, &c.

Wherein is fully and impartially related her Youthful Roguries, Love-Intriegues, Carriage and Deportment; her Behaviour to her Parents, the true Occaſion of her Coming to *England*, with her whole Carriage and Manner of Living her till the time of her Death.

To which is added,

A True Account of the Paper ſhe delivered at the Place of Execution to the Sheriffs of *London* and *Middleſex*.

Licens'd according to ORDER.

London, Printed and Sold by *J. Bradford* in *New-ſtreet* without *Biſhopſgate*, 1697.

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The PREFACE.

THat I may not impose any thing upon the Credulity of my Readers, I must assure them, that the Occurrences of this French Woman's Life already appears in as many forms as Proteus had shapes, however they all concenter that she was a person but of too evil Inclination, Behaviour and Deportment; witness her last barbarous, savage and unnatural Villany.

I cannot forbear takeing notice, what a piece of Monstruous Ingratitude it appears in the Eyes of the World; An evident sign that she, and its to be fear'd too many of her Nation more, fly to our pregnant Soyl more for the love of the Loaves and Fishes, their Ease and Interest, than any Aversion Hatred or Antipathy they have either against the French Tyrant, or the damnable Heresies of *Rome*.

It is likewise worthy notice, to observe with what policy and cuningness she vail'd her *Hydra* Head of Religion to the last; appearing in her Life time, the better to ingratiate her self, as a Protestant, for belike her other sentiments were never known, till almost her last Minutes. But I cannot imagine what kindness her dying in the Romish Communion can be, for surely there is no Saintship or Cannonization, no Merit to be recorded as a Martyr, for so villanous a Butchery, unless some of her unjust, pilfer'd Plate was dedicated to the use of his Holiness, or the Shrine of some merciful *Romish* Saint.

But if Fame err not (which sometime it doth) she took *London* for a safer Sanctuary, than *Rome* it self, that common Receptacle of Spiritual Thieves, for belike (from good Hands I had it) she has formerly imbru'd her Hands in no less than the dear Blood of an Indulgent Husband and Natural Child, a villany worse than Savage, for the most bruitish Animal is tender of the Life of their Young: How she escap'd Justice for that Villany, is as unknown to me, as the veracity of the Deed it self; but thus much by way of Introduction, I shall now relate more particularly the Series of her Life and conversation, collected from the best Informations I could have.

The

The Life and Converſation of Mrs. *Margaret Martel*, &c.

AS nothing hath been a ſubject of more Horror than the late Barbarous Savage, and Inhumane Murder Committed by Mrs. *Martel*, ſo nothing can afford more variety of Remarks and worthy Obſervations than the whole Seris of Her Life and Converſation.

She was Born within the CITY of *PARIS*, in the Kingdom of *France*, her Parents not of the meaneſt Rank, Eſteem and Quality, however her own unhappineſs had reduc'd her; Her Education, according to the Mode of that Nation, being very Liberal; having a peculiar dexterity in what belongs to Air and Gallantrys, as Muſick, Dancing, Japanning, Needle, works, and what not: greatly Loving and mightily frequently Enterludes, Masks, Balls, and ſuch like Exercifes, in which few or none ever went before her. One Pleaſant fancy I ſhall remark in her Minority, and that was when ſhe was about the Age of ten; A new Book in the Nature of our Academies being Publiſh'd, ſhe deſir'd her Father to buy one of them, which he utterly refus'd, not quoth he, *for the value, tho it is conſiderable, but becauſe it tends to corrupt good manners, and to inflame the mind with Amorous deſires, to ſay no worſe*, But Madammoſelle, how Early ſoever it was in her years had a deſire to be inform'd this, and therefore rather than to want ſo deſireable an Help and pleaſing Recreation, ſhe even reſolv'd by her finger ends to purchaſe Eaſe in mind, and ſo thoſe Hours which ſhould have been devoted to Sleep and the natural reſt of the Body, ſhe imploy'd in making Wax-work Figures for private Sale, whereby ſhe was not only enabled to purchaſe her Book, but likewiſe to ſupply ſeveral ſuch like ſecret Occaſions. And in theſe Intriegues ſhe ſo well manag'd that Her Parents (who by reaſon of her Inclination had a watchful Eye over her) never diſcover'd it: and as ſhe begun, ſo ſhe continu'd, for,

About the Age of Fourteen (to the grief of her Indulgent Parents) she fell in league with an *Italian* Comedian, a man tho not over well inrich'd with the Gifts of Mind, yet perfectly accomplished with agility of Body; as Vaulting, Fencing, Leaping, *&c.* Her Love was so hot and furious, that no perswasions whatever could over-rule her; but go she must and did along with him, tho it was apparently plain he had a wife at *Roan.* She travell'd with him from City to Town for above the space of Two Years, at which time its said her Paramour dying, she, destitute of Imploy, was reduced allmost to Swines Husks: in which condition as the Prodigal in Scripture, She turned to her Fathers House begg'd his Pardon and was receiv'd into favour.

Whilst the Impression of her sorrows were yet on her Heart, her Carriage and Behaviour was grave and demure enough; but so soon as they were worn away (as time consumes all things) she return'd like a Dog to his Vomit; and gave up her self to all the delicacy, pleasure and Effeminacy imaginable.

As I am inform'd the cause of Religion, and the preservation of a Good Conscience was not so much the Occasion of her coming to *England*, as to shield and hide her self from being ridicul'd and hiss'd at Home, not only for her Extravagant Ambitious Expences, by which she had wasted a plentiful Dowry bequeath'd to her, but also for the indirect means she took to re trieve the same. I must confess she had a Spirit above our Common Hackney Whores, as the are call'd, who Expose themselves to every Letcher for a Six penny piece; but yet she was inclin'd in time of need (*Necessitas caret Lege*) in that way to make use of her own, of which I shall repeat some Instances, as I have been creditably inform'd.

Being driven to some Necessities to support her self and and her Son, and being as unwilling to work as she was too Proud to Beg, she was fully bent to contrive some than ordinary Adventure to raise her drooping fortune in the World, and it was thus. She goes to each and every Friend and Acquaintance, with whom she had any manner of Interest, and borrows some one thing or other of Modish

diſh Rigging from them; by which means ſhe was able, like the Peacock, not only to deck and plume her ſelf with verity of colour'd Feathers, but had alſo ſome ſurplaſſage of her Borrowings to leave as Pledges for Money: thus equipp'd and adorn'd with her Son as a Page after her, ſhe moves to the Court, then at *Kenſington*, and there takes ſtately and noble Lodgings, appearing at all times as a Perſon of no ſmall Quality; ſhe much frequented the Walks, Gardens, and other Places of publick Reſort, where behaving her ſelf very free and Complaiſant, young Gallants, like Bees about a Honey-Pot, daily flock'd and Buzz'd about her; yet ſo nice and politick ſhe was to give them no occaſion, in the leaſt, to think ſhe was common; but on the contrary, when any made Addreſſes, and laid cloſe Siege, ſhe refell'd them with a great deal of Gravety, aſſuming no ordinary Gift of Modeſty, the more to inflame her Suitors; at length ſhe found ſhe had entirely caught two Wood-cocks in her Net, and therefore was reſolv'd to uſe them accordingly. The firſt was no leſs than Son to a Noble Earl, the ſecond a Baron of conſiderable Figure, ſhe wiſely received their Addreſſes apart, one knew nothing of the other, till after the Expence of a great deal of time the latter, as the freeſt Bleeder, bore the Bell; and things brought to ſuch a concluſion, the Nuptials being appointed, that the unwary Gentleman lodg'd all his Jewels, Rings, Plate and Treaſure whatſoever in her ſole Cuſtody, not Miſtruſting in the leaſt the virtue of his bright Saint, tho to his Exceeding great coſt he found the faireſt face had the moſt corrupted Heart, for he being obliged, upon ſome Emergant occaſions, to viſit ſome Relations in the Country, his *Dalilah*, with all the Booty moves off; and ſo the poor cheated Gentleman, without enjoying any other Bliſs, than the Phlematick offals of Love, the Letchery (cold comfort) of a dry Kiſs, loſt his *all*.

I muſt confeſs my Informer futher told me, that altho ſhe was not ſo honeſt as to reſtore her borrow'd Plumes; yet ſhe was ſo Cheerful as to ſpend that freely ſhe had acquired ſo eaſily, and tho Intereſt forbad her, entertaining the Baron in her Bed, yet nature prompted

her

her to the joys of *Venus*, and kind *Cupid* directed her to a jolly Hero in the field of Love, whose Service she well Rewarded: and truly she was so ravish'd with the Sweets of his Society, that she intirely forgot her self, and so spent her whole Treasure before her thoughts so imploy'd in Contriving new Scenes of Love, had leisure to think of getting more.

Being tow under a cloud of Disreputation, amongst her Acquaintauce, she was unable to Borrow as afore; and therefore was forc'd to take new Methods for a Livelyhood; Hereupon it was I suppose she enter'd into the Service of the Honourable Lady *Dondanel*, where she continued not above ten or Eleven Months, at most; and then took Lodingings, in which she continu,d till the Perpetration of her Horrid Villany.

How she liv'd; that is, what Courses she now took for a Maintance, is indeed something of a Mistery, Certain it is she had no Estate; nor as I take it, received no Pension or allowance from the Government.

Her Intimacy, indeed in so worthy a Family as Squire *Pullens*, and her Familiarity with so Vertuous a Gentlewoman as Madam *Pullen* was, gives me more than Ordinary assurance that she was not addicted to such base and mean Practices as fame reports of her: And tho' by Inclination she, were not so amorous and Gamsom as her Neighbours report; yet it seems to me that Savage Barbarity was Natural and Inherent to her: for her Father was Banish'd out of *France* upon the account of Murder; And yet I must not Exclude her the Kingdom of Love neither, for being brought up under the tution of an Aunt, when she was of Age fit to enter into Religion, one of her Aunts, made all endeavours to put her into a Convent, but she so Peremptoriliy refus'd it, that her Aunt highly incens'd, sent her into *Americа*.

Such indeed was her unstable Mind; or rather uneasines to be under any Authority that long she staid not there neither, but with her Son posted into *England*, a generous and as she thought warm Clime for Love, free from the dread of Convents and Nunneries And thus

thus having tracd' the moſt Material paſſages. of her Life, I ſhall now proceed to the laſt and very worſt part of it.

On the 29th of *June* laſt this *Margaret Martel* Moved by an avaritious deſire to ſupport her Pride and Ambition, came to the Houſe of Squire *Pullen*, in which ſometimes before ſhe had lodged the Space of 14 Months, and finding the Lady within tirred with her till towards the Evening, at which time contriving ſeveral frivolous Meſſages for the ſaid Madam *Pullens* Maid, ſhe took the opportunity with a Razor to Cut her Throat in the Cloſet, as the Lady was ſhewing her ſome Plate, which belike ſaid *French* Woman had formerly pawn'd there; after this Villany perpetrated, ſhe riffled and Plunder'd the Houſe of ſeveral Valuable Pieces of Plate, *&c.* As ſhall be more fully hereafter ſhewn upon her Tryal. The next day after ſhe had done this Wicked Deed, ſhe was taken and Commited to *Newgate* where her Behaviour like the former part of her Life, was with a great deal of Aſſurance and Audacity, till *Friday* the 9th of *June*, at which time ſhe was called down to the *Old-Baily*, in order to her Tryal, which was as follows.

She was Inducted on two Indictments, the firſt for Murthering *Elizabeth Pullen*, Wife of *Paul Pullen*, Eſq; at the *Golden Apple* in *Suffolk-ſtreet*, on the 29th of *June* laſt, by giving her one Mortal Wound in the Throat with a Knife value 2 *d.* of the Breadth of Six Inches, of which ſhe inſtantly dyed. The Second was for Robbing Squire *Pullen* of a Silver-Tarkard, 2 Silver Candleſticks, 4 Gold Rings, a Silver Porringer, 3 Spoons, 2 Gold Watches, 6 pair of Silver Buckles, with other valuable Goods. The firſt Evidence was the Maid-Servant, who ſaid, that her Miſtreſs being at Dinner; and near Dined, the Priſoner came and knock'd at the Door, ſhe being her Miſtreſſes Acquaintance, let her in, and her Miſtreſs ask'd her, why ſhe did not come ſooner; whereupon ſhe excuſed her ſelf; to be ſhort, after ſhe had eat and drank, ſhe deſir'd a Letter to be carried to *Red-Lyon-Square* which Madam *Pullen* bid her ſtaid to do, in the mean while ſhe committed her Bloody Act, the Maid returning home, the ſaid *French*-Woman

entertain'd

entertain'd her with a thouſand frivolous diſcourſes, pretending the Gentlewoman was gone abroad; which the Maid alſo, from her Mouth, related to her Maſter when he came home, whereupon he went to Bed; but the *French*-Woman tarried there till 11 a Clock, at which time, lying down on the Bed, the Maid, tho thinking little, ſpyed ſome drops of Blood upon her Petticoat, and demanding how it came, the *French*-Woman anſwer with a ſmile, and ſoon after went away about 12, the Maid went out to look for her Miſtreſs, but found her not till coming home, one of the Neighbours adviſ'd the Maid to break open the Door, of which it is thought the Gentlewoman had the Key, where they found her cruelly Murdered as aforeſaid. Upon her Tryal, the *French*-Woman was in two or three ſeveral Tales, having little to purpoſe to ſay, for indeed moſt of the Goods were found in her Cuſtody, and there was alſo produc'd her Bloody Petticoat and Slippers, and ſo the Jury half *Engliſh* and half *French* brought her Guilty of the Murder and Robbery.

Her Behaviour in *Newgate*, was now m[illegible]ed, ſhe was twice at the Chappel once after condemnation, but it was ſome time before ſhe Confeſs'd her Guiltineſs of the Horrid fact, which thorough the perſwaſion of a French Divine at length ſhe did; acknowledging the horrid Machination to be all her own.

On *Friday*, *July*, the 16th. By eight a clock in the Morning, ſhe was convey'd from *New-gate* to the place of Execution, where to be modiſh, as I may ſay, and the better to ſignify her ſelf a *Roman* Catholick ſhe read a ſhort Paper, and afterwards deliver'd the ſame to the Sheriffs; but it contain'd nothing more remarkable than what hath been ſaid; a freſh acknowledgment of her hainous offence at the laſt moment of her Breath, and an Idolatrious Prayer to the Virgin *Mary*.

FINIS.